SHADY GROVE RABBITRY
| Community Pet Services - Rabbit Savvy Loaf Shop - Safe Bunny Education |
www.ShadyGroveRabbitry.com - Beaverton, OR

Take Home Guide – Bringing your bunny home

The First Few Days Home

Holding your bunny consistently will help them build a trusting relationship with you. Some bunnies are wiggly, reserved, or free spirited. This doesn't mean they don't like being held. It's just their personality. Bunnies also have learned behavior and will be little stinkers if they know it'll get them free from your nail clipping or booty checks. You can swaddle your bunny in a kitchen towel or light weight blanket. Have a lot of confidence when interacting with your bunny. They catch on quickly. It can take as much as a month for a bunny to completely transition to their new home. Be patient, loving and give them time!

Water, Hay, Pellets, Greens & more

Your bunny should have unlimited access to fresh water and hay. Hay should make up 70-80% of your rabbit's diet. Pellet feed should be about 10-20% of their diet and should be given based on age and weight. Typically, all pellet feed offers a feeding guide on the package based on its nutritional values. Hay and pellets should be the type that is appropriate for your bunny's age and needs.
Junior rabbits, under 6 months of age, should not have any fruits or food based treats and nearly zero greens, grass and herbs. Natural treats or chews, like pinecones or wood is completely safe. As their digestive system is very sensitive and they can easily get Bloat, GI Statis and Poopy Butt. For adult bunnies these things should be about 10% combined of their daily diet.
When you do introduce greens, veggies and herbs do so very slowly and in tiny amounts.
Herbs are my go-to starter for introducing greens to bunnies. My favorite is cilantro.

You bunny is coming home with transition hay and pellets. Day 1 feed 100% old food, day 2-6 feed 50% of old and new food, day 7 feed 100% new food.

If you want to keep your bunny on our custom pellet feed – Happy Loaf Pellet Feed Rabbit – all life stages - it is available to purchase on our website in the Rabbit Savvy Loaf Shop.

Your bunny currently eats:
Hay: Alfalfa/Orchard Grass/Timothy Hay Mix
Pellet Feed: Our Custom Bunny Food Mix – Available for purchase on our website.
Age 0-6 months – Free Feed
Age 6+ months – 1/4C pellets per 4lbs per day
Veggies/Fruit/Treats: Follow our Feeding Guide

Your Bunny's Space

Your bunny has been introduced to using a litterbox. We use compressed pine pellet litter. You can also purchase our litter through our shop. It's important for your bunny to have a secure safe space to be, even if they free roam. Especially when they are still babies. This ensures that they don't get into things they shouldn't, and they are safe from other pets in the home. It's important to keep your

bunny's space clean. It doesn't need to be spotless by any means, realistically it's a good idea to sweep their space every couple of days and deep clean once a week. Obviously, more frequently is totally fine.

Basic Bunny Care

Bunny teeth never stop growing. Hay and safe chew items keep your bunny's teeth short and healthy. Make sure they always have safe chews and toys available.

Your bunny's nails are freshly trimmed. Baby nails grow fast, and I recommend trimming them once a week, even if you're just taking off the very pokey tips. This also allows you to practice and continue to teach them to be secure with nail trims. Adult nails grow slower, and they are better at keeping them scratched short. Adults still need their nails trimmed every 3-4 weeks.

Scent glands – These are two glands, located on each side of your bunny's genitals. Boys and girls have these glands. They look like little pockets or folds in the skin. These glands produce a small amount of sticky residue and can build up, similar to ear wax. Usually, bunnies do a good job of cleaning themselves but it's a good idea to check this area once a month and clean any build up out. You can use mineral oil or baby oil and a qtip to effectively and safely clean their glands. It doesn't hurt them. If their booty every smells funny, it's probably their scent glands.

We have a Bunny Care Section on our website.

Basic Care: https://www.shadygroverabbitry.com/basic-care.html#/
Spay & Neuter: https://www.shadygroverabbitry.com/spaying--neutering-pet-rabbits.html#/
Diet: https://www.shadygroverabbitry.com/rabbit-diet.html#/
Housing: https://www.shadygroverabbitry.com/rabbit-housing.html#/
Potty Training: https://www.shadygroverabbitry.com/potty-training.html#/
Behavior & Bonding: https://www.shadygroverabbitry.com/rabbit-behavior--bonding.html#/
Traveling: https://www.shadygroverabbitry.com/traveling--flights.html#/

Your Rabbit's Lifelong Health

You should visit a qualified exotic veterinarian at least once a year for check-ups on your rabbit's diet, behavior, and health. You can prepare for visits by making a list of questions or concerns you may have ahead of time. You can spay or neuter your rabbit. Often this helps calm the breeding instincts and hormones and if they have naughty bunny behavior. Spaying and neutering typically can't happen until a bunny is at least 2lbs and over 6 months of age. Doing so can help your bunny live longer and eliminate reproductive issues. Even with excellent genetics, this is good for pet bunnies.

Our Local Recommended Vet

First City Veterinary Hospital – Oregon City, OR
https://firstcityvethospital.com/
503-657-6553
You can also search for other veterinarians near you nationwide on our Spay & Neuter Page

Reasons to contact your vet:

- Watery, small dry or infrequent stools, hunched over and/or lethargic, poor or lack of appetite, no poops in 24 hours, (A sign of GI Stasis, Wool Block, Gut Motility issues, parasites, dehydration, improper diet and/or similar)
- Blood in urine (Blood will look bright red and is very rare. Sometimes bunny urine can be dark yellow or orange and this is normal.)
- Any bleeding on the body. Blood, cuts that are bleeding, skin rips or bites, gashes. (A sign of injury.)
- Inability to walk or use one or more limbs, limping, butt dragging (A sign of injury or infection.)
- Head tilting or seizure behavior. (A sign of infection or other illnesses.)
- Sneezing a lot or labored breathing, snot or mucus in the nose or eyes. (This is a sign of upper respiratory infection, infection either bacterial or viral, snuffles or allergies.)
- Overgrown, protruding, twisted or broken teeth, or difficulty chewing. (This is a sign of an accident, injury, infection or malocclusion.)
- Unintentional pregnancy and/or babies birthed (Accidental pregnancy for pet bunnies.)
- Discharge of any color, redness, swelling, crusty skin, or any odd smell in or around the genitals that is not due to dirty scent glands, for boys and girls.
- Bald spots, flaking skin, build up, signs of fleas, mites or lice.
- Excessive fur loss that is not related to typical molting.
- Wetness or fur around the mouth/chin that doesn't dry. (Sign of a topical yeast infection or 'wet dewlap.)

Basic Supply Check List:

- ☐ Age Appropriate Hay
- ☐ Age Appropriate High Quality Pellet Food
- ☐ Treats for bonding
- ☐ Water bowl or fountain (we do not recommend dripper bottles for bunnies)
- ☐ Food bowl – ceramic or metal. You can use a plastic bowl as long as you remove it if they start to chew on it.
- ☐ A safe area where you bunny can be left unsupervised (a bathroom, bedroom, xpen, playpen, hutch, kennel, etc)
- ☐ A space to hide or escape. (Tunnel, box, cay bed, anything they can go into that is bunny safe.)
- ☐ Toys and mental enrichment to keep them occupied when they are awake.
- ☐ Cat sized litter box. (At least 12"x16"x3")
- ☐ Litter or bedding material for their litterbox. (We use pine pellets. You can switch to something else you like too.)
- ☐ A slicker brush
- ☐ A metal comb
- ☐ Cat Nail Clipper (dog clippers are usually too large for bunnies)
- ☐ Styptic Powder (In case they rip/break a nail or you hit their quick while doing a nail trim.)